

Madhuvarasa

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For narration in Chat with Chocolate Program for VSNA Children

Madhuvarasa was Brahmin who believed strongly Vedas and Manu Smruthi and like all other brahmins believed firmly in the social order (inequality) created by birth. He has joined Chalukya King, Bijjala's work force when he was ruling Mangalawada. After Bijjala moved to Kalyana, Madhuvarasa followed him and got promoted to a key managerial position. He was against Basava's Sharana principle of treating everyone equal after coming to the fold of Veerashiva Lingayat irrespective of their social position in the birth.

When Haralayya as coming out of Basava palace in the street of Kalyana, he bumped into Madhuvarasa. As Madhuvarasa knew Haralayya, he enquired about the cloth bundle in his hands. A simple minded, Haralayya narrated the whole episode of Basavanna refusing to wear the special chappals. The moment Madhuvarasa came to know the refusal of Basavanna, he decided to definitely to wear it as he always believed that he is greater than Basavanna by birth. Haralayya requested him to not to do it in many ways and without listening to him, Madhuvarasa wore the chappals. Immediately a burning sensation started in his whole body. Without showing it to Haralayya, he came to home, drank water, took some medicine, applied oils and none of it reduced the excessive burning sensation. He suffering continued and he started blaming himself for thinking superior to Basavanna and for wearing the special chappals. But, now nothing can be done. He repeatedly started taking bath and the burning sensation continued to increase.

As all the water stored in the home exhausted, he ordered his servant Maadevi to go and bring more water. He wanted to take bath again. It was getting dark and Maadevi didn't know from where to bring the water as the river is very far. She saw a clean water pool near Haralayya's house to which ONLY his house used water was joining. She thought it is better than river where all the sewer from the town was discharged. Without any choice, she took water from there and gave it to her master. The moment Madhuvarasa took bath with that water, his burning sensation vanished.

Madhuvarasa was surprised and asked Maadevi from where she brought the water. She got scared that Madhuvarasa has found out that water is not from river and hesitatingly Maadevi said to him the location from where she brought and thought she would lose her job and asked for his forgiveness. The greatness of Haralayya dawned in the mind of Madhuvarasa and he became grateful to him for saving him from the acute burning sensation and his life. He started repenting the way he looked down on Haralayya and the gratitude for his help increased in his heart. Smilingly, he gave some gift to Maadevi which she didn't understand. Also, wanted to give some gift to Haralayaa for helping him to get rid of acute pain.

In the morning, he took some good clothes and jewels for Haralayya and Kalyani and came to Haralayya's house. He fell to the feet of Haralayya asking him to forgive him and requested him to accept his gifts. He didn't like to be indebted to him forever. Haralayya was shocked at the behavior of of Brahmin Madhuvarasa falling into his feet. Immediately lifted him back and requested him to not to do it again and make him as a sinner. He strongly refused accepting any gifts from him. This selfless act further increased respect in Madhuvarasa's mind and he started longing for the association of this great man. Haralayya offered him some food, water and jiggery.

Previously, Madhuvarasa belonging to Brahmin community would not even touch anything related to untouchable. But now happily sat down, considered that food as prasada and ate it with utmost reverence.

Haralayya was very pleased with Madhuvarasa's behavior. From that day both became very good friends and Madhuvarasa got exposed to the Basava teachings and sharana way of life. The innate knowledge of Madhuvarasa made him immediately realize the true potential of Basava teachings and by which even a common man can achieve the noble goals and greatness. With this self-realization, in a very short period, Madhuvarasa turned in to Sharana and started participating in Anubhava mantapa. Intellect of Madhuvarasa was appreciated by all sharanas and Madhuvarasa became one of the leading sharanas of Anubhava Mantapa. Conversion of a Brahmin like Madhuvarasa caused a lot of distress to the priestly community of Kalyana. But, Madhuvarasa became a steadfast believer and follower of Basava patha, Veershaiva faith.

As both of them became close, their families also became very near. Haralayya had a grown-up son called Sheelavantha who was simple, hardworking and following sharana principle in every aspect of his life. Madhuvarasa had a beautiful daughter who had come to age. As the families were involved in sharana way of life. Both Sheelavantha and Madhuvarasa's daughter were meeting quite often and without their knowledge developed liking towards each other.

As the daughter was reaching the marriagible age, Madhuvarasa started looking for the appropriate bride grooms for his daughter. Then his wife told a surprising news that his daughter is liking Sheelavantha and if the parents approve, she wants to marry him. Instead of getting shocked at the prospects of sending his daughter to an untouchable's house, as a true sharana to the core, he became very happy and thought he is lucky to have a relationship with such pious family. Also, he thought god might have given him an opportunity to pay back Haralayya by demonstrating his greatness by giving his daughter to his family.

When Madhuvarasa expressed his wish to convert their friendship into relationship by offering his daughter, Haralayya was shocked and said that it is impossible, the society will not accept, and he will not accept. When Madhuvarasa asked Sheelavantha about his willingness to marry his daughter, as a dutiful son he said if his parents approve, then he is ready to get married. Madhuvarasa tried to convince him many ways by saying that they both are sharanas and there is absolutely no difference between them. All his efforts went in vain and Haralayya didn't agree for this relationship. Determined Madhuvarasa takes his request to Guru Basaveshwara and succeeds in getting the approval of all sharanas. Consumation of the marriage of Sheelavantha and Lavanya is etched in the annals of history and leads to the death of Haralayya and Madhuvarasa developing into a revolution called "Kalyana Kranti".